

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

VERRAGIO, LTD.,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

vs.

S. KASHI & SONS,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
AND TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT; DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff Verragio, Ltd. (“Verragio”), by and through its attorneys, files its complaint against Defendant S. Kashi & Sons (“Kashi”) for injunctive relief and damages as follows:

Subject Matter Jurisdiction and Venue

1. This case is a civil action arising under the Trademark and Copyright Laws of the United States, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051, *et seq.*, and 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, *et seq.*, respectively. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims in this Complaint which relate to copyright infringement and trademark infringement pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121, 17 U.S.C. § 501, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

2. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(a). The infringing products which are the subject of this litigation are and have been distributed and offered for distribution in the Southern District of New York; the claims alleged in this action arose in the Southern District of New York; and, Kashi transacts business in the Southern District of New York.

Parties and Personal Jurisdiction

3. Verragio is a New York corporation with its principal place of business at 330 5th Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

4. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi has its principal place of business at 175 Great Neck Road, #204, Great Neck, NY 11021.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Kashi because Kashi transacts business and has other related activities within the Southern District of New York. Kashi regularly does and solicits business and derives substantial revenue from doing business in this Judicial District. Further, Kashi has undertaken acts of copyright and trademark infringement that were purposefully directed at New York with knowledge that the brunt of the injury would be felt by Verragio in this Judicial District.

The Business of Verragio

6. Barry Nisguretsky (“Nisguretsky”) is the owner of Verragio.

7. For over 20 years, Nisguretsky has been an innovator in the design, creation, and marketing of fine jewelry. Nisguretsky designs his own jewelry and has created exclusive collections from only top quality material.

8. Among Nisguretsky’s jewelry designs are D102, D124R, INS-7010P, INS-7084CU-2T. each an original design comprising copyrightable subject matter under the laws of the United States.

9. At all relevant times, Nisguretsky complied in all respects with the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.*, and secured the exclusive rights and privileges in and to the copyrights in D102 (VA 1-818-463), D124R (VA 1-818-418), INS-7010P (VAu 996-662), and INS-7084CU-2T (VA 1-898-941).

10. Nisguretsky has received a Certificate of Registration from the Register of Copyrights for D102 (VA 1-818-463), a copy of which is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.

11. Nisguretsky has received a Certificate of Registration from the Register of Copyrights for D124R (VA 1-818-418), a copy of which is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.

12. Nisguretsky has received a Certificate of Registration from the Register of Copyrights for INS-7010P (VAu 996-662), a copy of which is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit C.

13. Nisguretsky has received a Certificate of Registration from the Register of Copyrights for INS-7084CU-2T (VA 1-898-941), a copy of which is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit D.

14. Nisguretsky has exclusively licensed his copyrighted jewelry designs to Verragio.

15. Since its creation, D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T and the licensed copyrighted jewelry designs have been manufactured by Verragio, or under its authority.

16. Almost every engagement ring sold by Verragio contains the Verragio Crest. The Verragio Crest, as it applies to jewelry, “consists of the configuration of a crest in the shape of a crown with three points featured as a part of a ring design.” Verragio owns a United States trademark registration for the Verragio Crest, Registration No. 4,336,434. A copy of the Registration Certificate for this registration is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit E.

17. Verragio has made and continues to make a substantial investment of time, effort, and expense in the design, manufacturing and marketing of its jewelry featuring the Verragio Crest.

18. Verragio advertises its products, including jewelry that contains the Verragio Crest, in social media including Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Google+ and over the World Wide Web through its website www.verragio.com.

19. Verragio jewelry bearing the Verragio Crest has been sold to retail stores throughout the United States. These retail stores display and offer for sale to the general public jewelry that contains the Verragio Crest.

20. Verragio jewelry bearing the Verragio Crest has had outstanding commercial success. As a result, jewelers and the public recognize the Verragio Crest as designating an exclusive source, thereby creating a goodwill which inures to Verragio's benefit.

The Business of Kashi

21. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi is a wholesale designer, manufacturer and/or distributor of jewelry to the jewelry industry and is in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing and selling fine jewelry.

22. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi operates its jewelry business in direct competition with Verragio's jewelry business.

23. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi sells its jewelry to, and actively solicits and seeks as customers, the same jewelry retailers as Verragio.

24. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi sells its jewelry to, and actively solicits and seeks as customers, the same consumers as Verragio.

25. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi sells its jewelry to jewelers, retailers, and consumers within this Judicial District, and specifically markets its jewelry within this Judicial District.

26. Verragio has not authorized Kashi to copy, reproduce, manufacture, duplicate, disseminate, or distribute jewelry with a design that is substantially similar to the copyrighted jewelry designs of D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T or any other copyrighted ring design licensed to Verragio.

27. Verragio has not authorized Kashi to copy, reproduce, manufacture, duplicate, disseminate, or distribute jewelry with a design that is confusingly similar to the Verragio Crest trademark.

28. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi has engaged in the advertisement, manufacture, distribution, duplication and/or sale of jewelry with designs that are substantially similar to the copyrighted jewelry designs of D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T and other copyrighted ring designs licensed to Verragio.

29. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi has engaged in the advertisement, manufacture, distribution, duplication and/or sale of jewelry with designs that are confusingly similar to the Verragio Crest trademark.

30. Pictures of some of these unauthorized and infringing pieces of jewelry are attached to this Complaint as Exhibit F.

First Cause of Action
(Copyright Infringement)

31. Verragio realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 30 of this Complaint as though fully set forth.

32. Kashi's acts constitute infringement of Verragio's licensed copyright in D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T and other copyrighted ring designs licensed to Verragio in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.*

33. A comparison of the jewelry designs of D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T to Kashi's infringing rings follows:



EN7819-1RW



Verragio D-102



EN7712RW



Verragio D-124R



EN7479-5 OWG



Verragio INS 7010P



EN7789-1RW



Verragio INS 7084CU-2T



EN7712YW



Verragio D-124R



EN7712WG



Verragio D-124R

34. Verragio is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Kashi's manufacture, distribution, duplication and/or sale of infringing copies of D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T was deliberate, willful, malicious, oppressive, and without regard to Verragio's proprietary rights.

35. Kashi's copyright infringement has caused, and will continue to cause Verragio to suffer substantial injuries, loss, and damage to its proprietary and exclusive rights to the copyright in D102, D124R, INS-7010P and INS-7084CU-2T and further, has damaged Verragio's business reputation and goodwill, diverted its trade and caused loss of profits, all in an amount not yet determined. In addition, Verragio is entitled to receive the profits made by Kashi from its wrongful acts pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504. Alternatively, Verragio is entitled to recover statutory damages, on election by Verragio, in an amount of up to \$150,000 for each copyrighted work sold, offered for sale or distributed.

36. Kashi's copyright infringement, and the threat of continuing infringement has caused, and will continue to cause Verragio repeated and irreparable injury. It would be difficult to ascertain the amount of money damages that would afford Verragio adequate relief at law for Kashi's acts and continuing acts. Verragio's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries already inflicted and further threatened by Kashi. Therefore, Verragio is entitled to temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502, and to an order under 17 U.S.C. § 503 and 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a) that the infringing copies of Insignia-7003, and all molds by which such infringing copies were produced, be seized, impounded and destroyed.

37. Verragio is also entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs of suit pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

Second Cause of Action
(Trademark Infringement Under 15 U.S.C. § 1114(1))

38. Verragio realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 37 of this Complaint as though fully set forth here.

39. Kashi's use in commerce of Verragio's federally registered trademark in the Verragio Crest is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or to deceive.

40. The above-described acts of Kashi constitute trademark infringement in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1114(1), entitling Verragio to relief.

41. Kashi has unfairly profited from the trademark infringement alleged.

42. By reason of Kashi's acts of trademark infringement, Verragio has suffered damage to the goodwill associated with the Verragio Crest.

43. Kashi's acts of trademark infringement have irreparably harmed and, if not enjoined, will continue to irreparably harm Verragio and its federally registered trademark.

44. Kashi's acts of trademark infringement have irreparably harmed and, if not enjoined, will continue to irreparably harm the general public who has an interest in being free from confusion, mistake, and deception.

45. By reason of Kashi's acts of trademark infringement, Verragio's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries inflicted by Kashi. Accordingly, Verragio is entitled to injunctive relief pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116.

46. By reason of Kashi's willful acts of trademark infringement, Verragio is entitled to damages, and that those damages be trebled under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

47. This is an exceptional case making Verragio eligible for an award of attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

Third Cause of Action
(Trademark Infringement and False Designation of Origin
Under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))

48. Verragio realleges and incorporates by reference each of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 47 of this Complaint as though fully set forth.

49. Verragio's jewelry incorporating the Verragio Crest has a unique and distinctive design which designates a single source of origin.

50. Kashi's use in commerce of the Verragio Crest is likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive the relevant public that Kashi's goods or service are authorized, sponsored or approved by or are affiliated with Verragio.

51. The above-described acts of Kashi constitute trademark infringement of the Verragio Crest and false designation of origin in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), entitling Verragio to relief.

52. Verragio is being damaged and is likely to be damaged in the future by Kashi's infringement by reason of the likelihood that purchasers of Kashi's goods will be confused or mistaken as to source, sponsorship or affiliation of Kashi's jewelry.

53. Kashi has unfairly profited from the actions alleged herein and will continue to unfairly profit and become unjustly enriched unless and until such conduct is enjoined.

54. By reason of the above-described acts of Kashi, Verragio has suffered and will continue to suffer damage to the goodwill associated with the Verragio Crest.

55. The above-described acts of Kashi have irreparably harmed and, if not enjoined, will continue to irreparably harm Verragio and the Verragio Crest.

56. The above-described acts of Kashi have irreparable harmed and, if not enjoined, will continue to irreparably harm the general public which has an interest in being free from confusion, mistake, and deception.

57. By reason of the above-described acts of Kashi, Verragio's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries inflicted. Accordingly, Verragio is entitled to entry of injunctive relief pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116.

58. Because the above-described acts of Kashi were willful, Verragio is entitled to damages, and that those damages be trebled, under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

59. This is an exceptional case making Verragio eligible for an award of attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

Prayer for Relief

Therefore, Verragio respectfully requests judgment as follows:

1. That the Court enter a judgment against Kashi that Kashi has:

- a. infringed the rights of Verragio in Verragio's federally registered copyrights under 17 U.S.C. § 501;
- b. infringed the rights of Verragio in its federally registered trademark in its Verragio Crest in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1114; and
- c. infringed the rights of Verragio in the Verragio Crest in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125.

2. That each of the above acts by Kashi were willful.

3. That the Court issue a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction enjoining and restraining Kashi and its respective agents, servants, employees, successors and assigns, and all other persons acting in concert with or in conspiracy with or affiliated with Kashi, from:

- (a) manufacturing, producing, selling, distributing, destroying, altering, or otherwise disposing of any jewelry that is in the possession of Kashi that is confusingly similar to the Verragio Crest, or that is substantially similar to copyrighted designs licensed to Verragio;
- (b) destroying any documents, electronic files, wax models, molds, business records, or any other tangible object pertaining to the copying, reproduction, manufacture, duplication, distribution, or advertisement of any such jewelry;
- (c) engaging in any other activity constituting an infringement of Verragio's trademark rights in the Verragio Crest and/or Verragio's licensed copyrighted jewelry designs; and

- (d) assisting, aiding, or abetting any other person or business entity in engaging in or performing any of the activities referred to in subparagraph 3(a) through 3(c) above.

4. That Verragio be awarded damages for Kashi's trademark infringement, and unfair competition.

5. That Verragio be awarded Kashi's profits resulting from its infringement of Verragio's trademark.

6. That Kashi be ordered to account to Verragio for, and disgorge, all profits it has derived by reason of the unlawful acts complained of above.

7. That damages resulting from Kashi's willful infringement be trebled in accordance with the provisions of 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

8. That Verragio be awarded damages for Kashi's copyright infringement in the form of either: (i) actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial, together with Kashi's profits derived from its unlawful infringement of Verragio's copyrights; or (ii) statutory damages for each act of infringement in an amount provided by law, as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 504, at Verragio's election before the entry of final judgment, together with prejudgment and post-judgment interest.

9. That the Court issue a Permanent Injunction enjoining and restraining Kashi and its respective agents, servants, employees, successors and assigns, and all other persons acting in concert with or in conspiracy with or affiliated with Kashi, from:

- (a) copying, reproducing, manufacturing, duplicating, disseminating, distributing, or using the Verragio Crest or infringing copies of Verragio's licensed copyrighted jewelry designs;

- (b) engaging in any other activity constituting an infringement of any of Verragio's trademarks or licensed copyrighted jewelry designs; and
- (c) assisting, aiding, or abetting any other person or business entity in engaging in or performing any of the activities referred to in subparagraph 9(a) through 9(b) above.

10. That the Court issue an Order at the conclusion of the present matter that all infringing copies of jewelry, and all molds by which such infringing jewelry was produced, be seized, impounded and destroyed.

11. That the Court award Verragio its reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, 15 U.S.C. § 1117, and any other applicable provision of law.

12. That the Court award Verragio its costs of suit incurred herein.

13. That Verragio be awarded such other relief as may be appropriate, including costs of corrective advertising.

Dated: New York, New York
September 22, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

SPEKTOR & TSIRKIN, PC

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(212) 431-1566

Attorneys for the Plaintiff Verragio, Ltd.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff Verragio, Ltd. hereby demands a trial by jury to decide all issues so triable in this case.

Dated: New York, New York
September 22, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

SPEKTOR & TSIRKIN, PC

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